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indefinitely increase the number of seats. We should remember that we have to provide jobs for all these people after their study is over. They have got to be absorbed. That is not such an easy matter.

"In fact we are considering the question of increasing the number of Basic Schools. I think that will to some extent meet the rush to which the hon. Member had just referred."

SRI M. ETHIRAJULU :—" May I know how many backward community students are reading in these schools? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I am sure there are a large number of backward community students reading in these Basic Schools."

Price of films offered for sale to Government by private exhibitors.

* 52 *Q.*—SRI G. KRISHNAMURTHI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance and Education be pleased to state with reference to Legislative Council starred question No. 49 answered on 20th March 1953—

(*a*) the number of films (silent and sound) offered now for sale by private exhibitors;

(*b*) the basis on which depreciation has been calculated by the Government in fixing their present price;

(*c*) the number of films in respect of which the price fixed has been agreed to by the Exhibitors;

(*d*) the steps proposed to be taken in case of films in respect of which the price fixed is considered low by the Exhibitors; and

(*e*) the use to which the films to be purchased by the Government are going to be put?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (*a*) 311 films.

" (*b*) The prices of the films were fixed by the expert (Special Officer for Films, Central Polytechnic) taking into consideration the condition of the films (presence of scratches, torn-sprocket holes, etc.), the date of purchase of the films, the approximate number of times the films have been run and other relevant factors affecting the life and quality of the films.

" (*c*) 309 films.

" (*d*) The proprietor has taken back the remaining two films.

" (*e*) The films purchased by the Government are being lent to the schools on terms of hire from the Central Film Library of the Director of Public Instruction's office."

SRI G. KRISHNAMURTHI :—" Was there any demand, Sir, from private exhibitors that a Committee should go into the question of charging depreciation? "

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THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM:—"I do not find it here. If necessary I shall find it out and give the information to the hon. Member."

SRI G. KRISHNAMURTHI:—"Is it a fact, Sir, that these films are recommended for purchase through correspondence with the owners and not taken straight by the Central Film Library?"

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM:—"We get the applications and then we decide whether to purchase the film or not. If we are not satisfied with the quality of a film, we reject it, and the film owner takes it back. As a matter of fact I find that we have not rejected many. Out of 311 films, 309 films have been purchased, and in respect of two films we could not agree to the terms of the film owner and, therefore, we did not give our consent for the purchase, and so the owner took them back."

SRI G. KRISHNAMURTHI:—"Are the Government aware of the fact, Sir, that even in case of new films depreciation has been charged to the extent of 30 or 40 per cent?"

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM:—"The film is carefully examined by the Special Officer, who is technically qualified for the same. I find that even though some are marked new, those films have already been used. That is why depreciation is charged."

SRI G. KRISHNAMURTHI:—"May I know, Sir, whether an account is being taken of the number of runs a film has gone through before charging depreciation?"

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM:—"That is being taken into account, Sir."

SRI G. KRISHNAMURTHI:—"Can the Government say that all the films placed by private exhibitors in deposit with the Director of Public Instruction, Madras, have been sold and that there is no stock with the Government for sale?"

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM:—"According to the information on hand, I find that out of 311 films offered for sale by private owners 309 have been purchased and the two that were rejected were taken back by the private owners of those films."

Orders to private parties for coach or body building of Government buses.

* 53 *Q.*—SRI V. GURUNANDAN ROW: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries, Labour and Co-operation, be pleased to state whether the Government have placed any order for coach or body building of Government buses to private parties, and if so, the names of the parties and the size of the order?